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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PREVENTING THE MISUSE OF THE INTERNET IN THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES



CICAD

Comisión Interamericana para el Control del Abuso de Drogas

International cooperation for preventing the misuse of the internet in the international distribution of controlled substances



Dr. Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete
Executive Director of International Operations

Federal Commission for Protection
Against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS)

SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH — MEXICO

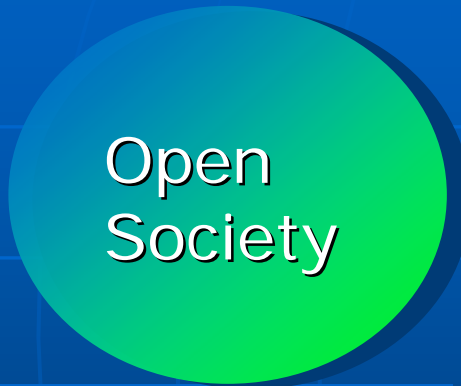
Washington, D.C., May 2007

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International Context

Revolutions in information and transport technologies



- Personal mobility
- Access to information

GLOBALIZATION



- Circulation of goods and services

Global risk society

- Ecological crisis
- Transmission of diseases
- Addictions
- Terrorism
- Drug trafficking



Open Society

- ✓ Exchanges of information and knowledge
- ✓ Personal mobility
- ✓ Introduction of effective technologies
- ✓ Creation of efficient productive processes
- ✓ Markets differentiated by competitive advantages
- ✓ Emergence of crossborder social movements



Global Risk Society

- Economic asymmetries between regions, countries, and social groups
- Transfers of economic instability between regions and countries
- Terrorism and organized crossborder crime
- Rapid propagation of diseases and epidemics
- Expansion of life styles and habits that endanger health (inappropriate diet, sedentary existence, addictions)
- Environmental decay

The Problem

Revolution in information and transport technologies

Negative impact on public health and on justice systems

Exponential growth in on-line sales of controlled substances

Increased availability of controlled substances
Increased consumption



➤ Economic incentives
➤ Cyber-culture of illegality
-Cybercrime-

- Growing number of internet users
- Net access by children
- Reduced transaction costs for businesses
- Depersonalization of transactions
- Evasion of regulations and oversight

The Strategy

From the Information Society to the Knowledge-based Society

- ✓ International collective action
- ✓ Construction of Global Public Assets

■ Supply reduction

- Promotion of the Comprehensive Alternative Development model
- Updates to domestic laws
- Law enforcement
- Cooperation in investigations
- Strengthening the culture of legality
- Coordinated and simultaneous operations



Prevention: education of society based on:

■ Reduction of the demand for drugs

- Strengthening interventions based on prevention, treatment, and reincorporation of addicts into society

■ Confidence building and mutual recognition among authorities

- International regulatory standardization
- Exchanges of information
- Training programs

50th regular session of the
UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, Austria, 12-16 March 2007

*Resolution presented by Mexico
and adopted by the 50th session
of the UN Commission on
Narcotic Drugs*

**International cooperation in
preventing the misuse of the
internet in the international
distribution of controlled
substances**

Resolution of the 50th session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs

Background:

- ✓ The background to the resolution came from the CICAD guide on "Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding and Investigating Diversion and Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet," presented at its 40th regular session in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

Background:

- ✓ This guide provides an explanation of how misuse of the internet can exacerbate the substance abuse problem.
- ✓ The guide defines terms and provides a list of potentially important laws and investigative powers needed to tackle the problem.
- ✓ It outlines the way in which investigations can be pursued for identifying and prosecuting individuals who make use of the internet for the illegal distribution of internationally controlled licit substances.

The resolution covers the following points:

- ✓ Internet-based trafficking in internationally controlled licit substances is reaching uncontrollable proportions across the globe.
- ✓ The failure to oversee the consumption of substances bought over the internet by the public in general, and by minors in particular, poses a grave threat to global health.
- ✓ The purchase over the internet of internationally controlled licit substances is illegal if it violates an international treaty or domestic law.

It textually reads:

- ✓ Based the important work carried out by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) in providing technical assistance to the public and private sectors to assist the member states and strengthen their ability to monitor, investigate, and halt the illicit distribution of pharmaceuticals and other internationally controlled licit substances over the internet.

The resolution covers the following points:

1. It applauds OAS-CICAD and its member states for adopting measures aimed at combating the illegal international distribution of internationally controlled licit substances over the internet.
2. It urges the member states to consult the OAS-CICAD guide on "Drugs in Cyberspace" in regulating, investigating, and prosecuting the illegal distribution over the internet internationally controlled licit substances.
3. It encourages the International Narcotics Control Board to persevere with its efforts to raise awareness about and prevent the misuse of the internet in the illegal supply, sale, and distribution of internationally controlled licit substances.

4. It invites the member states with experience in investigating internet-based drug crimes, when they deem appropriate and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary financial resources, to provide the necessary equipment, training, and assistance as requested by other member states, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
5. It requests, as long as other international agencies continue to address the growing problem of illegal trafficking in internationally controlled licit substances over the internet, that the Commission on Narcotics Drugs continue to debate this important issue at a future meeting.

Conclusions

- Globalization offers major advantages and poses great challenges.
- Given its crossborder nature, the problem of internet-based sales of controlled substances requires global joint action.
- Multilateral cooperation is the most effective strategy for tackling the new challenges that the revolution in information technologies has set for public health and justice systems.